

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A laminate surface material adapted to provide an in-mold surface coating for use with a molding material, the laminate surface material comprising:

a layer of a surface resin material; and

a resin conducting layer, said resin conducting layer comprising a venting structure that allows for venting gases during processing of said surface material such that no voids are formed during the processing of said surface material, said resin conducting layer further providing a resin retention structure for retaining said surface resin material in contact with the mold surface during processing of said surface material, wherein the resin conducting layer comprises a woven or non-woven thermoplastic fabric material.

2. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic fabric material has a weight of between 20 g/m² up to 100 g/m².

3. (Currently Amended) A laminate preform surface material adapted to provide an in-mold surface coating for use with multiple layers of a preform molding material, said preform molding material comprising a reinforcement resin material, the laminate preform surface material comprising:

a layer of a surface resin material and a resin conducting layer, said resin conducting layer comprising a venting structure that allows for venting gases during processing of said surface material such that no voids are formed during the processing of said surface material, said resin conducting layer further providing a resin retention structure for retaining said surface resin material in contact with the mold surface during processing of said surface material; and

wherein, during processing of the surface material, the minimum viscosity of the surface resin material is higher than the minimum viscosity of the reinforcement resin material to retain the surface resin material on the mold surface.

4. (Previously Presented) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the resin retention structure has a fine weave structure to reduce the tendency for the formation of surface irregularities.

5. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the resin conducting layer is adapted to move through the surface resin material during processing of the surface material to provide a gas venting route in a direction approximately perpendicular to the mold surface.

6. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the thickness of the resin conducting layer is larger than the thickness of the surface resin layer.

7. (Previously Presented) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the surface material further comprises a further resin conducting layer, the further resin conducting layer comprising a venting structure for venting gases during processing of the material.

8. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 7 wherein the further resin conducting layer is adapted to move through the surface resin layer during processing of the surface material.

9. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the reinforcement resin material comprises higher glass transition temperature properties than the glass transition temperature properties of the surface resin material.

10. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the surface resin material and the reinforcement resin material comprise such thermal expansion properties that thermal stresses are dissipated in the surface material.

11. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the surface resin material comprises a gel coat resin material.

12. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the surface resin material is non-homogeneous so as to adapt the properties of the surface material to the properties of the molding material to avoid interfacial stresses between the molding material and the surface material.

13. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the resin conducting layer comprises a woven or non-woven thermo-plastic fabric material.

14. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 3 wherein the surface material comprises a surface reinforcement layer.

15. (Original) A surface material according to Claim 14 wherein the surface reinforcement layer comprises a woven and/or non-woven fibrous surface reinforcement material.

16. (Currently Amended) A laminate structure comprising:

one or more layers of a molding material; and

one or more layers of a laminate surface material including a layer of a surface resin material, and a resin conducting layer, said resin conducting layer comprising a venting structure that allows for venting gases during processing of said surface material such that no voids are formed during the processing of said surface material, said resin conducting layer further providing a resin retention structure for retaining said surface resin material in contact with the mold surface during processing of said surface material, wherein the resin conducting layer comprises a woven or non-woven thermo-plastic fabric material.

17 - 21. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A laminate preform surface material adapted to provide an in-mold surface coating comprising:

- a layer of a surface resin material; and
- a resin conducting layer, said resin conducting layer comprising a venting structure that allows for venting gases during processing of said surface material such that no voids are formed during the processing of said surface material, wherein said resin conducting layer further provides a resin retention structure for retaining said surface resin material in contact with the mold surface during processing of said surface material.

22. (Currently Amended) A laminate preform surface material adapted to provide an in-mold surface coating comprising:

- a layer of a surface resin material; and
- a resin retention layer comprising a resin retention structure for retaining said resin material into contact with the mold surface during processing of said surface material such that no voids are formed during the processing of said surface material and whereby the resin structure is adapted to reduce the tendency for the formation of surface irregularities during processing.